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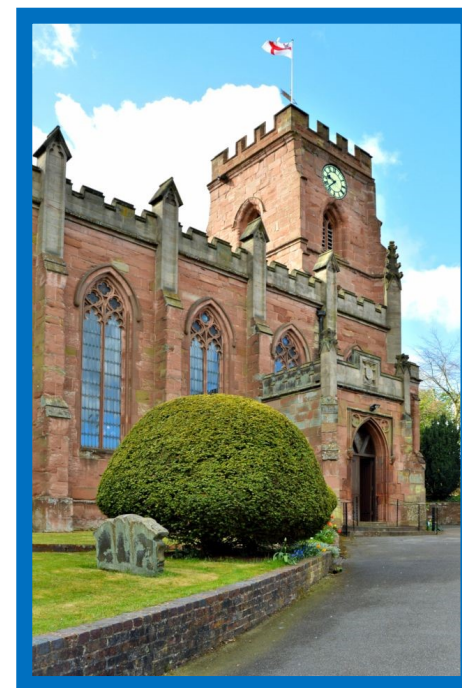
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FAIR TRADE
St Mary's fair trade stall will be
available at the 10.00.am service each
month on the second Sunday.
Items will also be available at the
Thursday morning service.
Look out for details.



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD Parish Church Magazine



PRIEST IN CHARGE: The Revd Stephen Agnew, The Rectory,
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SEPTEMBER 2017

50p

SUNDAYS AT ST MARY'S

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Parish Communion and Children Together
6.30 pm	Evensong
10.00 am	(second Sunday) Worship Together

WEEKDAYS AT ST MARY'S

Daily:	9.00 am - Morning Prayer (weekdays)
Daily:	5.00 pm - Evening Prayer (weekdays)
Wednesday:	1.30 pm - Toddlers' Group at St Mary's (term time) parents & toddlers
Thursday:	10.30 am - Holy Communion in Lady Chapel
Thursday:	7.30 pm - Bell Ringing Practice
Friday:	Choir Practice and Youth Groups (in term time)
Saturday:	10.00 - 12.00 noon - Open Church –refreshments available
Priest in Charge Day Off:	Friday
Curate's Day Off:	Monday



OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

Prayer Group:	Third Wednesday in month, 10 -11 am	393454
Mothers' Union:	Second Tuesday at 2.15 pm	392951
St Mary's Walking Group:	Last Saturday of the month. Depart 9.30 am	

Reader:	Mrs Kanthi Ariaraj	395115
Church Wardens:	Mrs Judy Hall	377349
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661
Director of Music:	Mr Graham Davies	01905 353939
	st.mary.os.dom@btconnect.com	
Treasurer:	Mr Russ Fowler	442684
PCC Secretary:	Miss Katey Fletcher	378182
Magazine Editor:	Mr Antony Tatford	822661
Safeguarding Officer:	Mrs Liz Fourness	394359
Church Hall and		
Coach House: - Bookings:	Parish Office	441003
Parish Administrator and		
Publicity Officer:	Mr John Sutton	441003
Parish Office:	Open 9.00 am -12.00 noon Monday to Friday	441003
Church website address:	www.stmaryschurchholdswinford.org.uk	
	E-mail: st.mary.os@btconnect.com	
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchholdswinford	
Magazine e-mail address:	stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk	

ENQUIRIES ABOUT WEDDINGS, BANNS OF MARRIAGE, BAPTISMS.

Please come to the Church on Saturday morning between 10.00 am and 11.00 am for Vestry Hour. You will be warmly welcomed. Tea and coffee will be available.

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER

HARVEST



The season of harvest festivals is upon us. It's good to know that it's still an important fixture in the calendar of our parishes, particularly the rural ones.

Harvest is about taking nothing for granted. Farmers certainly don't, in my experience, but I think that there is a temptation for many people in our society to take their food for granted in a way that never happened in the past.

There is an increasing disconnectedness between most people and the food they eat. Our generation is more removed from the land than any previous one with a much greater proportion of us living in an urban setting rather than rural and many people never seeing anything of farms and farming. Urban myths about children thinking that milk comes from bottles abound.

There is also a continuing globalisation of food production, as with much else. When we eat, we're involved in a vast, complex, interweaving set of life and death dramas as never before. In these dramas we are only one character among many, but no matter how solitary our eating experience may be, every sniff, chomp and swallow connects us to vast global trade networks and thus to biophysical and social worlds far beyond ourselves.

We owe thanks to God and to very many other people for the food on our plates. We should never take them or it for granted. The contrast with our partner diocese of Morogoro in Tanzania is stark. Crop failure there has led to malnutrition and even starvation. The picture remains bleak – and that is true of vast swathes of Africa. Maybe the plight of millions elsewhere will give us more incentive to give thanks and to share what we have more generously. Harvest Festivals are one way of encouraging that.

+John

ST MARY'S HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

Already, Harvest celebrations are part of the planning programme for the autumn as children return to school and our long term focus shifts from summer holidays and to the preparations for Christmas.

A Harvest Supper is planned for Saturday 30 September to follow what will probably be a busy morning for the decoration of the church for our Harvest services. Your help with the supper and flowers will always be welcome and valued. Please have a word with Sally Frost or Sue Wakeley if you are able to help.

FAIR TRADE

A Fair Trade stall will usually be available at the 10.00 am service on the second Sunday of each month and, possibly, at a Thursday morning service. If you might be available to help with the stall at either service please contact Maggie Abbotts.

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

18 June Georgia Eliza Judith Kerfoot

2 July Jude Samuel Phillips
Ezra Jonathan Jack Phillips
Edith Lily Stephens

16 July Sophie Emma Longden
Sienna Isla Dolan
Thomas William Joyce

6 August Sienna-Mai Gorton
Isla Grainger
George Grainger

Weddings

22 July Shane Goodall and Emma Hunt

Funerals

28 July Michael Bridge Aged 77

17 July David Moss Aged 85

AWARDS FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Bishop Graham has circulated a letter from the Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands in which he encourages nominations for Honours and the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The aim behind the letter is to boost the number of local people recognised in this way following a period of considerable under-representation from the area.

You can find information on how to nominate at <https://www.gov.uk/queens-award-for-voluntaryservice/overview> or you can go directly to the online nomination form at <https://qavs.direct.gov.uk>

A copy of the letter has been posted on the noticeboard in the Narthex. If you would like a copy please ask Tony Tatford.

Answers to Cross Words 9

GIMP, GISMO, GRIM, IMPOSING, IMPRISON, MINI, MINOR, MIRING, MISO, MOPING, MOPS, MORN, NORM, PRIM, PRIMING, PRIMO, PRIMS, PRISM, PROM, **PROMISING**, RIMING, RIMS, ROMP, ROMPING, ROMPS, SMOG.

CONGRATULATIONS IF YOU FOUND MORE

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

The Parish Office will be closed until 12 September

Friday 1 Stephen's day off
Saturday 2 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
12.00 noon Wedding
2.00 pm Wedding

SUNDAY 3 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Monday 4 7.30 pm Standing Committee
Wednesday 6 3.00 pm Holy Communion at Oriel House
7.30pm Baptism preparation

Thursday 7 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church

Friday 8 Stephen's day off
Saturday 9 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

SUNDAY 10 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The Fairtrade stall will be available after the 10.00 am service

Copy date for October magazine

Monday 11 7.30pm Christmas market planning meeting

Tuesday 12 Parish Office open this week

Open the Book Team to visit Oldswinford Primary School

11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft

2.15 pm Mothers' Union Meeting in the Coach House

Thursday 14 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church

Friday 15 Stephen's day off

Saturday 16 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

1.00 pm Wedding

7.30 pm Friends of the Music

A PROGRAMME OF MUSIC for the ORGAN

SUNDAY 17 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

3.00 pm Baptisms

4.30 pm ATC Battle of Britain Service

Monday 18 7.30 pm Magazine meeting

Tuesday 19 2.15 pm Tea in the Coach House

7.30 pm PCC Meeting

Wednesday 20 11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge

Thursday 21 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church

7.30 pm Churches Together in Stourbridge Meeting

Friday 22 Stephen's Day Off

Saturday 23 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

SUNDAY 24 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Open the Book Team to visit Oldswinford Primary School

2.15 pm Tuesday Tea in the Narthex

Thursday 28 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church

Friday 29 Stephen's day off

Saturday 30 9.30 am Walking Group

Decorate church for Harvest

10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

1.30 pm Marriage Blessing Service

7.00 pm Harvest Supper in the Church Hall

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends

September is effectively the start of a New Year for many people. It is always a busy month with every group and committee in churches, schools and many other organizations the length and breadth of the country wanting to hold meetings so that they can make a 'good start'. If you read through this magazine you will read of all the things we are planning to do at St Mary's over the next four months – and beyond. It can make you dizzy just reading about it all. And thinking about Christmas – well that will immediately set you in a spin!

So what is it with all this 'busyness'? Why are we planning all these activities? And who are they for?

As is so often the case, simple enough questions don't lead to simple answers. Is all this for the benefit of the congregation of St Mary's? Well, yes. We will enjoy taking part in all the things that are planned for the coming months, whether it be a Pet Service, Harvest Festival, a Barn Dance, Messy Church, a Christmas Tree Festival, the Christmas Market or a Carol Service or any other of the dozens of things scheduled to take place over the coming months.

But we are not planning these things just for our own benefit. We are planning them for the benefit of friends and neighbours, and members of the parish of Old Swinford who we don't even know – yet. We are seeking to invite people into the Church fellowship, to invite people into relationship with Jesus Christ. Why? Because having a relationship with Jesus Christ is something that we value; it is important to us and helps us in our lives, and so we want others to benefit from that relationship as we do. We want to travel with other people on a shared journey of discovery, and the sharing of that journey with other people of faith in our church fellowship is one of the most important things that we as a church can do.

So the question you should ask yourself as you read through all the events of the coming months is not really: 'Do I want to come to that?' It is rather: 'Who am I going to invite to come with me to this or that event?' By approaching things from this angle we start to engage in the most fundamental activity of the Church – namely MISSION.

Stephen Agnew

above its competitors in the fish-friendly arena !! It is (sadly) a rare example of a touristy town boasting an exalted wine.

Interesting alternatives ? I enjoyed a wine made from the Xarel-lo grape recently. Along with Parellada and Macabeo/Viura this is one of the traditional Cava grapes. Good still wines are produced too and it is a speciality of the wines from Alella in Catalonia. Whatever your selection, just close your eyes and wait to be transported to a fish restaurant at the water's edge !

Enjoy your wine-sipping.....

Richard W. B. Ryan

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

The July Walk

Considering there had been so much rain on the Friday, we were surprised and delighted that 18 hardy folk joined us for the July walk around Chaddesley Corbett.

We started the walk from the Talbot on the main high street and made our way in a northerly direction to the Holloway where we turned left onto a footpath by Green Acres. Turning right we proceeded to walk through a series of fields where we encountered a stretch of land where large water pipes were ready to be laid. We continued in the direction of Harvington Hall, the moated Elizabethan manor house built over 400 years ago and which was just visible through the trees on the left hand side. We, however, turned right and took a path alongside a field of recently harvested spring onions where a few still remained along with the strong smell!

Our walk took us on pathways through wheat and barley fields, a potato field, farm buildings and some very stylish converted barns near Swancote farm as we headed towards Chaddesley Woods. A gentle stroll through the trees and woodland provided a contrast to our previous experience and a new appreciation of our surroundings.

Before heading back through the fields towards Chaddesley Corbett we stopped to admire the views across the countryside and the spire of St Cassian's church in the heart of the village. After six and half miles and back onto the High Street we all looked forward to a well deserved lunch at the Talbot.

Our day, however, was not at an end as we were joined by all the walkers for a barbeque at our house. Everyone brought a contribution and we all had a great evening planning the programme to take us through to July 2018!

Avril and Stan Williams

Answers to CROSS LINKED puzzle.

Connecting words across.

Word in fourth row

Column 5 down. Final link

Line, circle, point, square

e.g. Dance

Geometric details and features

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

CREAMY SEAFOOD STEW

This is an easy dinner party dish that serves 2-3 generously or provides 4 smaller portions

1 garlic clove, crushed
1 tablespoon oil
2 celery sticks finely chopped
1 onion chopped
175ml white wine
300ml chicken stock
1 tablespoon cornflour, mixed to a paste with 1 tablespoon cold water
400g bag frozen seafood mix, defrosted or fresh equivalent
Chopped parsley
5 tablespoons crème fraîche



METHOD

Heat the oil in a large frying pan and cook the onion and celery until soft for about 10 minutes. Throw in the garlic and cook for 1 minute more. Pour in the wine and simmer on a high heat until most has disappeared.

Pour in the stock and cornflour mix and simmer for 5-10 mins, stirring often until thickened. Season, add the seafood and most of the parsley. Simmer for a few minutes until piping hot, stir in the crème fraîche and sprinkle over with the parsley.

Serve with French bread or a bowl of tiny new potatoes

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE...

Who doesn't enjoy a creamy seafood stew? - An open invitation for a tingling fresh white wine. Many options here and indeed the choice of wine will be governed in part by your own preference. All should have crisp acidity to cut through the creamy sauce; not too highly fruited or aromatic I would say - just a good clean citrus character. Therefore, if you favour Sauvignon Blanc with your fish stews, a passion-fruit/nectarine warm climate fruit-basket style of Sauvignon is not recommended here.

Picpoul de Pinet has become a popular seafood partner in recent years and it regularly pleases. Chablis is the safe bet, but at any level in the Chablis hierarchy it is not cheap; lesser Petit Chablis can often disappoint on value for money. Meanwhile Pinot Blanc is pretty reliable, if unspectacular.

Italy's candidates are plentiful, although a moderate Soave or Gavi may not cope well with a richly sauced dish. There is much to praise with the wine Lugana - the finest expression of Trebbiano (another grape which often fails to hit the heights). However, my top billing goes to Vernaccia di San Gimignano with its steely finish. Those who have visited the town would say it towers

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2017

3 September Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Rom 12: 9 - end	Matt 16: 21 - end
	6.30 pm Evensong	Rom 12: 9 - end	Jer15: 15—21
10 September Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	Worship Together	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Ezekiel 12: 21 - 13: 16	Acts 19:1-20
17 September Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 14: 1 - 12	Matt 18: 21 - 35
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezekiel 20: 1 - 8, 33-44	Acts 20: 17 - end
24 September Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Phil 1: 21 - end	Matt 20: 1 - 16
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezek 33:23, 30-34, 10	Acts 26: 1 9-25

CANAL CRUISE EVENING

The proposal for an evening cruise along local canals with supper and the opportunity to share good company has been overwhelmingly well received with places filled quickly and a waiting list eagerly watched.

This is an indication of the potential response we may have to a much more active social calendar if we are able to match the offer of events with the demand and interest within our community. Please let us know of other activities you would enjoy at various times of the year so we may investigate the possibility of providing these and expanding our opportunities for greater fellowship.

ST MARY'S BELL RINGERS

Instead of having our weekly practices on Thursday evenings, during the summer the bell ringers have been visiting various church bell towers over the northern part of the Worcestershire branch which we belong to.

On 27 July a group of five bell ringers visited St Mary's and All Saints in Kidderminster. At this tower there are twelve bells all of which have biblical names such as Sarah, Lydia, Elizabeth, Martha and the heaviest - weighing a ton - is called Mary, Mother of Jesus. Before we started ringing I got the chance to see the bells by going up a step-ladder in the chamber.



Shortly afterwards I rang rounds and called changes, ringing the bells called Rebecca and Rachel. Then for the rest of the evening I enjoyed watching the combined Oldswinford and Kidderminster teams ring a variety of methods such as Cambridge Minor, Grandsire Caters and Stedman Triples. John rang the one-ton tenor bell which is twice as heavy as the St Mary's Oldswinford tenor and he felt the effects of the extra physical effort with back-ache the following day!

Thank you to John, Chris and all at Kidderminster for a memorable and enjoyable experience.

Georgia Hawkins

REPAIRS NEEDED

With a mighty clash, the ringing of the tenor bell came to a stop! Some misfortune had occurred in the belfry and it was time, once again, for Ray Drew to investigate. On climbing into the bell tower and into the midst of the tight arrangement of bells and their headstocks, careful inspection soon revealed the cause of the problem - the failure of part of the supporting structure of the tenor bell clapper.

The clapper, the unit that strikes the bell each time it rotates in time with the bell ringer's pull on the bell rope, has broken, putting the tenor bell out of action, probably for some time.

Despite the challenges posed by difficult access and the considerable weight of the parts involved, the clapper has been removed and taken to Loughborough, to the Taylors bell foundry where the clapper was made. Taylors were immediately able to access their records of plans and dimensions for the original and will undertake repairs using traditional methods in order to retain the historical integrity of the fitting.

The bell ringers will be somewhat restricted in their repertoire for the foreseeable future but, with many others who enjoy the sound of the bells, will look forward to once again being able to ring a full peal once the clapper has been reinstalled.



ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP PROGRAMME OF WALKS, September 2017—July 2018

Date	Location	Miles	Leaders	Tel. No.	Lunch
30 Sept 17	Harvington	5.5	Mike	01384 390537 07779 873892	Pub
28 Oct 17	TBA	5	Toni + Bob	01384 377096 07749 950200	Pub
25 Nov 17	Hanbury	6	Sally + Malcolm	01384 377146 07779 255827	Pub
Dec 17	No Walk				
27 Jan 18	Canal, Stourbridge to Kinver (Bus back)	6	Sue + Tony	01384 838635	Pub
24 Feb 18	Saltwells	5	Linda + Keith	01384 825177 07779 873892	Pub
24 Mch18	Mamble	5.5	Jean & Ray	01384 836924	Pub
28 Apr 18	Parish Bounds Sponsored for Church funds	7	Mike	01384 390537 07779 873892	Pub
26 May 18	Great Witley (Hilly)	4.5	Sue + Tony	01384 838635	Pub
30 June 18	Studley	TBC	Sylvia	01384 392244 07762 906170	TBC
28 July 18	Enville	TBC	Stan and Avril	01384 392990	Pub
Aug 18	No Walk				

NOTES

1. Unless otherwise stated all walks leave from St Mary's at 9.30 am
2. There are no walks in December 2017 or August 2018
3. All walks are on the last Saturday of the month *except for March 2018*
4. For picnic lunches please bring your own food. For pub lunches there is usually a good selection of meals for purchase.
5. Country walking is not risk free, all persons joining our walks do so in the knowledge of this fact.
6. For further information on the walks please telephone the leaders.

ST MARY'S WITH ST JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION

Tuesday 12 September, 2.15 pm in the Coach House, "Good Mental Health" – Speaker Lynne Jankowska BEM

Thank you to all members of the Mothers' Union for the enjoyable opportunity to share lunch and good company and to learn a little more of the world-wide and local work of this long-standing organisation. Mary Sumner was remembered in our prayers on Wednesday 9 August.



**THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSIC
AT ST MARY'S**

**SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER
At 7.30 pm**

A CONCERT

**A PROGRAMME OF MUSIC for the ORGAN
by
Richard Hall
and
Graham Davies**

Admission free
Retiring collection in aid of the Friends of the Music at St Mary's



EXPERIENCE ADVENT

Following on from the success of Experience Easter we will be running an Experience Advent event for the pupils in our local primary schools at the end of November. Pupils will move around seven interactive stations representing the key events in the birth of Jesus. In doing this we hope that they will be prepared for the feast of the nativity and the welcoming of Jesus into their lives at Christmas time this year. Watch out for details in the pew sheets about how you can get involved and help us deliver this programme.



Alex French

NEWS FROM THE PCC

There is a good deal going on that is keeping members of the PCC and others fully occupied over the next few weeks and months. Many of these tasks are already underway but during the coming weeks these matters will become more high profile and will impact on all of us to some extent. Please offer to become involved with any aspect of this work if you feel able to help.

Anne Bachelor, Mission Enabler, appointed to work in the Stourbridge Deanery, has office accommodation at the Rectory and is beginning her work with a team from St Mary's who will review our work and involvement with children with the object of encouraging more children and families into the influence of the Church.

Alison Maddocks, Diocesan Stewardship Officer, is assisting in discussions concerning matters relating to parish finance and stewardship as the PCC faces real challenges in being able to pay the Parish Share asked of Old Swinford.

In the churchyard, volunteers continue to keep on top of most tasks whilst the 'Muddyboots' team has recently completed the mid-summer cut. Other teams are maintaining our mission, pastoral and outreach work whilst Play School, Toddlers and the choir take a well-earned summer break.

Plans for the Autumn include a Pet Service to celebrate the importance of companionship and focus so many people find through pet ownership. The end of September brings our Harvest services and celebrations as we turn our attention to preparations for a busy Christmas season and a diary already well-filled with services for local schools.

A Christmas Tree Festival is being considered as a means of encouraging a community-wide involvement in St Mary's and of sharing the Christmas story in a way that is easily accessible. We welcome help and contributions from all and anyone as we seek to make this a real Oldswinford community event.

A Barn Dance with Eve and John is scheduled for October, an event that is always both popular, much anticipated and enjoyed. There is strong hope that this will herald many other social events that will prove to be attractive, enjoyable and productive in terms of helping our financial situation.

Almost all of the legacies received in recent years have been utilised in support of the annual costs of running the church in Oldswinford. One particular legacy has been designated to address the very poor state of repair and decoration of the north and west porches, a state of affairs that has arisen from the ravages of damp, exacerbated by inappropriate repairs in the past. Drastic action is required to correct these issues and this is the major focus of Tony Lloyd, our Master of Fabric, as he seeks to explore the detail of what can and must be done to remedy the situation and to define the welcome that is extended to all when they visit St Mary's. Alongside this specific programme, Tony is responding to the recent report of our once every five yearly inspection of the building and known roof leaks. Although the inspecting architect found no major concerns, there is a list of matters to attend to that will only bring more challenging times if left ignored.

Busy days ahead!

ALEX'S ORDINATION

On Saturday 24 June about 50 members of St Mary's congregation attended the 'Ordination of Priests' service in Worcester Cathedral to support Alex in his 'priesting'. Our group were among the early arrivals and the stewards showed us to rows of seats reserved for the Oldswinford visitors. The cathedral provided a magnificent setting for this solemn occasion and the service was full of joyous ceremony, celebration, and music. The family and friends of one of the candidates were in full traditional African dress which added a colourful dimension to the congregation and complemented the richness of the clerical robes in the processions.



After the introductory elements of the service and a wonderful sermon delivered by the Revd Rhiannon King, Director of Mission for the Diocese of Birmingham, the Liturgy of Ordination followed with a succession of declarations by the candidates and ordination prayers during which the bishop laid his hands on the head of each candidate.



The service continued with The Eucharist and at the dismissal Bishop John led the priests in procession through the cathedral to majestic music and sustained applause. The

congregation dispersed into the cathedral grounds on a beautiful sunny afternoon which was appropriate for the joy and happiness of the departing groups.

Prior to his ordination Alex spent four days in retreat at Holland House with the other candidates, led by Revd Rhiannon King, and he also prepared an ordination message which is reproduced below.



This last year has passed faster than any year I have ever known! Characterised by many surprises both as one-off episodes and more prolonged occurrences, they have all been, and continue to be, truly life changing. This is the power of Jesus. By putting him at the centre of all we do, life becomes rewritten and enriched; it becomes both freer and more wholesome.

I have been taken aback in many different ways. Most profoundly by the sense of personal completeness that ordained ministry has brought, the warmth of the welcome and the continual outpouring of love and support

- If it is a building, is it a school? University? An office or other workplace?
- If it is a workplace, is it an office or a shop, perhaps a butcher, bakery, café or restaurant?

Lots of stories use multiple locations and these depend on the characters you have created and what they are doing in your plot. In my books, Sammy Rambles goes from his home to the school which is located in a castle, but not everyone can see the castle. He visits his friend's house which is on a sheep farm that I invented and there is also the school trip to the fictional Floating Circus.

When writing your story, it is inevitable that the location will evolve and your characters will move from place to place. It can be helpful to draw a map on paper with the names of your locations and use nametags and arrows to show which characters are in which location at a particular point in your story.

Next month, the writing tips will cover when things will happen in your story and how you can easily create a timeline for your characters to interact in your plot and in different locations. www.sammyrambles.com

J T Scott

MUSIC NOTES



In a change to the advertised programme for the concert on **Saturday 16 September**, a programme of music for organ will be given by Graham Davies and Richard Hall. This will be the next concert in aid of **The Friends of the Music at St Mary's** and you are greatly encouraged to give this your support.

It is hoped that we can keep up the tremendous momentum generated during the launch in June when over 90 attended the concert and over £500 was contributed to the Friends. The wonderful displays showing memorabilia from the choir's archives will remain in church as will leaflets describing the aims of the Friends and it is hoped as many of you as possible will feel able to become a Friend by completing the form and making a donation. The success of the scheme to benefit the musical education of singers and the future of the choral tradition will rely on regular and sustainable giving to this worthy cause.

On **Saturday November 11** Gig Caritas Brass will be giving a concert for the Friends which should be well worth hearing in the fine acoustic at St Mary's – so please put this in your diaries.

September sees the return of the choir after their well-deserved summer break and they will be beginning rehearsals for what will be a very busy term including cathedral services in Birmingham and Worcester and special services. It would be good to see the service of Choral Evensong better supported, especially as the choir offer some of the best church music in the repertoire sung to a very good standard. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of singers and organists at St Mary's.

CROSS LINKED

This puzzle is a variant of the popular “Only Connect” TV quiz.

The clues in the rows across are connected by a common word or phrase. Enter this link in the fifth column. The new words also have a link down which should enable you to complete the grid and find a final word or phrase.

Answers on Page 21

STRAIGHT	OUT	SIDE	MAIN	
FAMILY	DRESS	FULL	INNER	
BLANK	PIN	DUTY	MATCH	
ROOT	BASH	SET		

WRITING TIPS

Part 3 – Where will your characters meet?

Last month, we covered the types of plot you might like to use for your story and now it's time to find out where your characters will meet and where elements of your plot will take place.

If you are writing a romance story, your characters might meet on the train, or at work. For a horror story, you might choose the location to be a graveyard or a deserted house. As the writer, you can choose whether the location is real or imaginary.

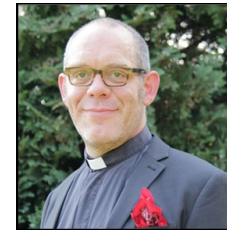
When writing the Sammy Rambles books, I used several locations for my characters to meet and interact in the plot. I needed somewhere to introduce the reader to Sammy Rambles and his friends. Then I needed somewhere for them to go to school, somewhere for them to live and somewhere for the action to take place.

I knew I wanted the events in my plot to take place in a castle and so I drew on my own experiences of visiting English Heritage castles and National Trust stately homes for inspiration. I could have used a desert island as the location for the Sammy Rambles story, but it wouldn't have been the same.

These are some ideas for choosing the location for your story:

- Is your location real? Is it in the UK? Abroad? On Earth? Or, is it somewhere imaginary?
- Is it somewhere rural or urban? A village, town, city? Why? What difference does it make?
- Does your story take place in-land, on an island, on a river, a lake or at sea?
- Do your characters meet on a train? A plane? A boat?
- Is your location somewhere for your characters to live? A cottage, a house, a castle?

which the parish has shown me and the recognition and connection by people in both the local and wider community to the 'dog collar'. Whether welcomed with open arms or arms folded across the chest, there has been a reaction to the 'collar' which has revealed glimpses of the deep spiritual undertow that is in us all, whether we acknowledge it or not.



I can't wait to be 'priested' to be able to serve all the people in the parish in a broader and deeper sacramental way. What a privilege, to receive the gift of ministry from Christ, to have the Holy Spirit sent down, bringing its power so that I might be able to search for, shepherd and feed God's children so that they might be saved through Christ forever. I suspect that this year and subsequent years may go even faster!

We all extend to Alex our prayers and good wishes for his continuing ministry.

Alec Beevers

At the 10.00 am service on Sunday 25 June, Alex celebrated his first Holy Communion. The congregation had assembled to support Alex, to share in the sacrament and to hold Alex and his future ministry in our prayers.

After the service, in the Church Hall, a Bring and Share luncheon was enjoyed by a good number of our congregation members. Good wishes were shared with Alex and he was presented with a silver communion set, a gift from the community at St Mary's Old Swinford, to commemorate his ordination as priest and to serve him in his ministry.



PILGRIMAGE TO SCOTLAND

A group of 22 shared train travel to and from Edinburgh, tours of the Lowland Abbeys, a trip on the Firth of Forth to visit the island of Incholm and much more besides during a five day pilgrimage led by Revd Stephen Agnew. This was a much appreciated opportunity to share time together and to learn a little more about Christianity in Scotland. Most notable was the support provided by King David for the establishment of the abbeys at Dryburgh, Jedburgh and Melrose as centres of piety and learning and the creation of buildings that clearly stated to visitors from the south the capability and power of Scotland.

With further education about malt whisky and tea on HMY Britannia, the trip provided both spiritual and nutritional sustenance. Thank you to Stephen and Jean for their organisation and leadership and for the memorable sight from our dinner table of Edinburgh Castle as the sun set. Haste Ye Back!

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Roy and Pamela Peacock who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 7 September.

Sixty years ago, Roy, who was serving with the Army, married Pamela, who was teaching at a local school, at St Leonard's Church, Hythe.

Roy and Pamela have brought much generosity and kindness to the communities they have been part of over the years and we are especially happy to share our best wishes and congratulations with them on this significant occasion.

Roy's request is please, no fuss, no presents, no names, no pack drill!



The 'no names, no pack drill' observation is a service reference to informal punishment that carries no official record.....the 'offence' is not recorded in a service record but was addressed through a session of drill carried out in full uniform whilst carrying a full back pack. Can we imagine Roy ever having offended in order to face such a punishment ?

CHRISTMAS 2017



"But it's still only September!"

Nevertheless, plans are underway to provide for the many commitments we face at what is probably the busiest time of year at St Mary's. Perhaps you can help!

The Christmas Market will be held in the Church Hall, as usual, on the morning of Saturday 2 December. Please reserve this date in your diary and take part, either by helping to run a stall or by attending on the day. Invite your friends and families and support St Mary's in the festive fun.

One new initiative for this year is the plan to hold a Christmas Tree Festival, an occasion when groups are invited to decorate a tree in celebration of their interests and for the whole display to serve as an opportunity for fun, support and the celebration of shared community interests. Plans are at an early stage, but there is already much enthusiasm for the project which ought to involve as many people who may wish to contribute as they are able.

Sally Frost has already thought of some ideas and is seeking some help, even at this early stage..... *"We hope to make some trees by various means, the first being constructing tree shapes from cardboard tubes. Please will you start collecting cardboard tubes for us, they can be any size: toilet roll middles, kitchen roll, tin foil or cling film middles. Tonight I emptied a gravy granule tube and put that to one side, maybe a custard powder box would also be useful. If you have a new carpet fitted in the next couple of months and need to dispose of the tube we can use that too. We will need lots of tubes of all sizes. Please leave any tubes at the back of church for collection."*

CELEBRATION OF AUTHORISED LAY MINISTRY

On Sunday 10 September we will be celebrating with 40 ALMs (Authorised Lay Ministers) who have completed their training over the past year.

The Bishop will join the new ALMs at the Cathedral at 6.30pm for a special service recognising their commitment to furthering the Kingdom of God in specific areas. From worship leaders to evangelists, pastoral assistants to children and youth workers, over forty Christians from across the Diocese will come together to celebrate their achievement.

ALMs are important to our churches and the Diocese as a whole, supporting and working alongside ordained and other lay ministers in their parishes in their specific roles, to encourage and grow the Kingdom. They are trained generally and then in particular areas and are taught how to use their existing skills and knowledge to best serve Christ.

Please pray for all our new ALMs as they fully step into their ministry; that God would bless them and help them as they embrace every aspect of their roles. Pray for all those across the Diocese who continue to serve faithfully in this role.



Dear All

I thought it might be useful for me to introduce myself via the monthly magazine, just in case I haven't had the opportunity yet to meet and speak with you in person.

My name is Anne Batchelor and I am a Mission Enabler working alongside a small team employed by Worcester Diocese on a project called "Calling Young Disciples" or CYD for short.

The Calling Young Disciples project work with churches across Worcester Diocese, helping them to strengthen their engagement with children, young people and their families, so that they have the opportunity to respond to God's call to be Jesus' disciples and to grow in love for him

As part of this project I have been allocated to work alongside St Marys and also St Thomas in Stourbridge Town Centre. I will work with you during this 1st year of the project and then continue with support and involvement for the remaining 3 years of the project.

Over the next few weeks I will be trying to talk to as many of you as possible about life at St Mary's, your thoughts and ideas for working with children, young people and their families and how together we can discern what God is calling us to do in this area of Mission work in your community in Oldswinford.

I am aiming to worship with you on alternate weeks, and shall be based here at the Parish Office most Thursday mornings. In between do feel free to contact me, either on my mobile or by email.

Blessings

Anne

Mobile: 07931 175448

abatchelor@cofe-worcester.org.uk

CHILDRENS SOCIETY BOXHOLDERS 2017 CAMPAIGN

Once again it is time for the contents of Children's Society boxes to be counted. However, this year we have had to make some changes to collection of the boxes as one of our stalwart collectors is unable to undertake the visits. Also, we need to have all box contents counted and paid in by the second week in October as the old £1 coin is being withdrawn on 15 October.

So arrangements will be as follows:-

1. If Sue usually collects your box I will call and collect this year. If I have not contacted you or collected the box by 28 September please give me a ring to arrange collection on 01384 371247 (there is a voicemail facility on this line so if I am out please leave a message).

2. For all other boxes - If you can please bring boxes to any service on a Sunday or Thursday in September and leave it with a warden or sides person. Please do not leave any boxes in church without alerting someone to the fact it is there.

I will endeavour to make sure boxes are returned to you asap after counting.

Maggie Abbotts

MARIE CURIE NURSES

Volunteers needed for fun, flexible roles within the Stourbridge area.

Can you help raise money for the local Stourbridge Marie Curie Nurses within your area? There are lots of opportunities to get involved in fundraising – particularly our Community Fundraising Volunteer roles.

The role includes, but is not restricted to, some of the following tasks:

Place and empty collection boxes in pubs, shops and other locations

Support collections in their local area and coordinate our collectors at events

Be the cheery face of Marie Curie at our collections, holding a bucket or tin and collecting money

Promote events and speak to the public about events in their area

Counting and banking money raised at fundraising events and collections.

Volunteering for Marie Curie is completely flexible and we want it to fit around your life and commitments so whatever time you can offer we really appreciate. We will offer you full support within the role, agreed reasonable out-of-pocket expenses and an excellent opportunity to build on your skills.

Marie Curie Nurses within Stourbridge care for terminally ill patients within their homes. They provide respite and support to families and relatives and are there when people need them most.

If you are interested in hearing more about volunteering within the local area please do contact your Community Fundraiser Rachel Nash on 0121 703 3712 or email rachel.nash@mariecurie.org.uk.

Another way we are looking to make trees is by French knitting (corking) using a knitting Nancy (or cotton reel with four nails in it). The 'knitting' can be done with double knitting wool preferably in green and needs to be 28 inches long. I am happy to receive just the finished piece or it can be completed to look like the picture as shown.

There will be more information on the Festival in the following weeks. Thank you for your help."

Sally Frost



The potential for this event to attract many visitors to church is encouraging and will provide opportunities for the serving of refreshments, for meeting those who may not know St Mary's or feel they have no reason to come through the doors and for sharing the Christmas story. What a wonderful opportunity to present the warmth of our welcome.

Even more schools will be visiting St Mary's this year for their Carol Services. With the usual busy service programme of Advent and Christmas and the proposed 'Experience Advent' event being planned by Revd Alex French, the calendar will be filled almost to capacity. Please do watch out for information as it is published and find ways in which you may become involved.

The Church Wardens

MAGAZINE EDITOR REQUIRED

Do you have a little time to spare each month and an interest in producing something worthwhile? If so, perhaps you would consider becoming the next editor of this Parish Church Magazine.

After nine years in role the current editor is seeking to hand over to someone with new ideas and the enthusiasm to continue a publication that serves as an important means of sharing news and providing interesting items for its readers.

Currently, the magazine is published eleven times a year, and requires the editor to prepare the draft copy by assembling a number of set articles and items submitted by contributors. The committee reviews the draft and assists with the final presentation of the copy for the month. Publisher is the computer programme used at present, so a moderate familiarity with desktop publishing would be an advantage.

If you would like to enquire about the task, without any obligation, please speak to a member of the magazine committee, to a member of the clergy, or the current editor. Contact details are displayed on page two.

BACK TO SCHOOL

CROSS WORD 9

G
I N M I O
P
R
S

How many words can you find having at least 4 letters and using each letter only once. No plurals, No foreign words, no proper nouns/names but verbs ending in 's' are allowed.

You must use the centre letter in every word.

There is 1 nine letter word.

15 is average, 20 is good, 25 very good

30 or more is brilliant!

See page 22 for answers

Jesus was a great teacher. He taught people to be merciful and kind. He taught people to trust God and depend on Him for our needs. To be quick to forgive and forget.



How to be a great learner

LISTEN
HELP OTHERS
TRY YOUR BEST
ASK FOR HELP
PRACTICE

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it:

"LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints.

I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied:

"My son, my precious child, I love you and I would never leave you.

During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

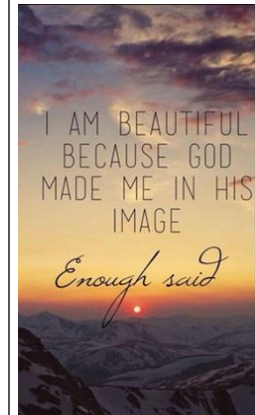
The Bible tells us that God made people in God's own image.

We can see something of God in each one of us. So what is God like?

God is Creator, so we know God is creative, powerful and intelligent.

The Bible tells us that God has promised to be near us and to hear our prayers, so we know that God is kind, caring, loving and a good listener.

As you start a new school term, go to new places, meet new people, learn new things, go with confidence because you are one of those people who are made in God's image.



Remember, God will go with you to guide you and show you the right way.

And when the going gets tough, he will be there to help carry you.